

Message Text

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SUBJECT: COUNCIL OF EUROPE - ASSEMBLY SEEKS U.S. PARTICIPATION

IN 4TH PARLIAMENTARY AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE, 16-18

SEPTEMBER 1975.

DEPT FOR EUR/RPE (VOGELGESANG) , OES/SCI (GRANGER)

1. SUMMARY: SPONSORED BY THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE'S PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY, FOURTH PARLIAMENTARY AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD IN FLORENCE, ITALY, 16-18 SEPTEMBER 1975. COUNCIL IS SEEKING PARTICIPANTS FROM U.S. CONGRESS, EXECUTIVE BRANCH, AND SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY. END SUMMARY.

2. ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT VEDOVATO INVITED, IN LETTER SENT 14 MARCH REP. OLIN TEAGUE, CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS, TO ATTEND SUBJECT CONFERENCE WITH A FIVE-MEMBER CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION. VEDOVATO IS ALSO INVITING SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY IN VIEW OF THE SENATOR'S CONNECTION WITH THE OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT AND IN LETTER STATES HE WOULD LIKE FIVE OTHER SENATORS TO PARTICIPATE AS WELL. (REQUEST DEPARTMENT PASS VERBAL INVITATION TO SEN. KENNEDY AND ADVISE THAT LETTER BEING FORWARDED BY AIR POUCH.) COUNCIL SECRETARIAT LACKS CURRENT INFORMATION ABOUT COMMITTEES DEALING WITH SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ON SENATE SIDE AND IS UNCERTAIN WHOM TO INVITE AND HOW BEST TO CHANNEL INVITATIONS.

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3. SECRETARIAT OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONFERENCE, HANS CHRISTENSEN HAS ALREADY CONTACTED DR. JOHN HOLMFELD, CONSULTANT TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE, AND WOULD LIKE TO CONTACT APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE STAFF MEMBER FOR THE SENATE. CHRISTENSEN ALSO WANTS TO CONTACT MISS ANNE STRAUSS WHO HE BELIEVES IS A SCIENCE ADVISOR ON SENATOR KENNEDY'S STAFF. LAST JULY COUNCIL SOUGHT PARTICIPATION OF CONGRESSMEN TEAGUE, MOSHER AND SYMINGTON IN AN ORGANIZING MEETING FOR THE CONFERENCE HELD IN VIENNA SEPTEMBER 18-19. HOWEVER, PREPARATION FOR THE NOVEMBER 1974 ELECTIONS PRECLUDED THEIR PARTICIPATION.

4. FIRST CONFERENCE IN SERIES WAS HELD IN LONDON IN 1961 AND FOCUSED ON PERMANENT MEANS OF LIAISON BETWEEN PARLIAMENTARIANS AND SCIENTISTS. SECOND, HELD IN VIENNA IN 1964, DEALT WITH THEIR COMMON ROLE IN DRAWING UP A SCIENCE POLICY, AND THIRD CONFERENCE, HELD IN LAUSANNE IN 1972, LOOKED AT PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY IN THE SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL AGE. AIM FOR THE FOURTH CONFERENCE IS TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LEADING FIGURES IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SCIENTIFIC FIELDS TO EXCHANGE VIEWS, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS USE OF SCIENTIFIC METHODS IN POLITICAL DECISION-MAKING. ABOUT 200 PERSONS ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND, REPRESENTING COUNCIL AND OECD MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATED STATES. CANADIAN AND JAPANESE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATIONS WILL BE PRESENT, AND INVITATIONS ARE BEING SENT TO REPRESENTATIVES OF EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.

5. CHRISTENSEN DESCRIBED COUNCIL'S WORK IN THIS FIELD AS UNIQUE AND THE RESULT OF AN AGREED DIVISION OF LABOR BETWEEN THE COUNCIL, THE EC, AND THE OECD. THE OECD, IN PARTICULAR, LACKING A PARLIAMENTARY BODY, IS VERY MUCH IN FAVOR OF THE COUNCIL'S SPONSORSHIP OF THE CONFERENCE SERIES. ACCORDING TO CHRISTENSEN, THE CONFERENCE IS EXPECTED TO RESULT IN A REPORT TO THE COUNCIL'S ASSEMBLY AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY MEMBER GOVERNMENTS.

6. BESIDES U.S. CONGRESSIONAL PRESENCE, COUNCIL DESIRES PARTICIPATION BY OTHER U.S. PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FIGURES REPRESENTING BROAD SPECTRUM OF THOSE CONCERNED WITH PROBLEMS OF SCIENCE AND PUBLIC POLICY. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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TOLD FORMER COUNCIL SECRETARY GENERAL SIR PETER SMITHERS HAS APPROACHED DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY GRANGER (OES/SCI) REGARDING LATTER'S PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE. POST RECOMMENDS THAT DEPARTMENT GIVE FAVORABLE CONSIDERATION TO SENDING GRANGER AND OTHER APPROPRIATE FIGURES TO PARTICIPATE AS OBSERVERS IN CONFERENCE. HOWEVER, EXPENSES ARE EXPECTED TO BE BORN BY PARTICIPANTS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPARTMENT

A. ADVISE POST OF PRESENT COMMITTEE STRUCTURE IN SENATE REGARDING SCIENTIFIC MATTERS, IDENTIFYING KEY SENATE AND STAFF MEMBERS (REQUIRE REPLY SOONEST TO AVOID DELAYING COUNCIL INVITATIONS).

B. PROVIDE POST WITH TITLE AND POSITION OF MISS ANNE STRAUSS.

C. CONSIDER SUGGESTING OTHER MEMBERS OF AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY CONCERNED WITH PUBLIC POLICY WHOM COUNCIL MIGHT WISH TO INVITE TO CONFERENCE, AND ADVISE POST WHETHER GRANGER OR OTHERS WILL BE SENT.ROMINE

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